<u>REMARKS/ARGUMENTS</u>

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-11, and 15-19, 21, 23 and 27 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 13 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 1, 11, 15-19, 21 and 23 are amended by the present response. No new matter is introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to as including informalities; Claims 13, 15-19, 21 and 27 were objected to as including informalities; Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Wiklof et al.</u> (U.S. Pat. No. 6,618,162, herein "<u>Wiklof</u>") in view of <u>Schwerin</u> (U.S. Pat. No. 6,691,187); Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Wiklof</u> and <u>Schwerin</u> in further view of <u>Ozawa et al.</u> (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0149791, herein "<u>Ozawa</u>"); Claims 7 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Wiklof</u> and <u>Schwerin</u> in further view of <u>Nomura et al.</u> (U.S. Pat. No. 7,693,961, herein "<u>Nomura</u>"); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Wiklof</u> and <u>Schwerin</u> in further view of <u>Volkov et al.</u> (U.S. Pat. No. 7,130,881, herein "<u>Volkov</u>").

With regard to the objection to the title as including informalities, the title has been amended as was suggested in the outstanding Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

With regard to the objection to Claims 13, 15-19, 21 and 27 as including informalities, Claims 13, 15-19, 21 and 27 have been amended by the present response to overcome the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 13, 15-19, 21 and 27 be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23 and

27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wiklof and Schwerin, Applicants

respectfully traverse this rejection, at least, in light of the amendment to the independent

claims.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

> an auxiliary storage interface part configured to interface with an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, such that the one or more applications are installed on the auxiliary storage device, and that stores an execution command;
> a part configured to display a setting screen that receives launch selection information from a display part of the image forming apparatus, and to store information input via the setting screen as launch selection information, the launch selection information at least identifying a selection of the auxiliary storage device from among a plurality of kinds of auxiliary storage devices; and
> an application launch part configured to access the launch selection information, and to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device, indicated as selected by the accessed launch selection information, by issuing the execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device, the auxiliary storage device being at least one of a storage inside the image forming apparatus, a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without dissembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus, and a computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network.

Claim 27 recites a corresponding computer readable medium claim and Claim 23 recites at

least the above noted features.

Wiklof describes a system in which a printer downloads a setup kernal from a server

and launches the setup kernel after verifying the downloading using a check sum calculation.

Schwerin describes a removable storage medium which is connectable to a printing

device and a computing device with multiple software modules.

However, the combination of Wiklof and Schwerin does not describe or suggest an

application launch part configured to access the launch selection information, and to launch

the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device, indicated as selected by the accessed launch selection information, by issuing the execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device, the auxiliary storage device being at least one of a storage inside the image forming apparatus, a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without dissembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus, and a computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network.

The outstanding Action asserts that the launching of the applications from the auxiliary storage device based on the accessed launch selection information is disclosed by Fig. 6B, steps 124-138 of Wiklof, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and submit that Claim 1, as amended, even better distinguishes from this disclosure of Wiklof.

In particular, Claim 1 recites that the application launch part launches the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device, indicated as selected by the accessed launch selection information, by issuing the execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device being at least one of a storage inside the image forming apparatus, a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without dissembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus, and a computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network.

When launching the setup kernel, Wiklof merely discloses that this piece of software is launched from the server. Nothing in Wiklof discloses that launch selection information indicates an auxiliary storage device as selected, or an auxiliary storage device that is one of a storage inside the image forming apparatus, a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without dissembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus, and a computer connected to the image forming apparatus via a network.

In the claimed invention, the launch selection information is used to determine from where the one or more applications are to be launched. In Wiklof there is never a selection of

an auxiliary storage device from among a plurality of kinds of auxiliary storage devices.

Furthermore, launch selection information is never used to make any determination about

launching of the one or more applications.

The outstanding Action relies on <u>Schwerin</u> as curing the deficiencies of <u>Wiklof</u>. For

instance, on page 8, the outstanding Action asserts that "Schwerin teaches that display a

setting screen that receives launch selection information (referring to Fig. 6, launching

selection information is provided)"

<u>Schwerin</u> describes a setting screen Figure 6 which allows a user to select which

actions will be associated with particular shortcut buttons and which action will be executed

when a card is inserted into either "Drive E:" or "Drive G:". For instance, in the example

shown in Figure 6, when a card is inserted into either "Drive E:" or "Drive G:", the image

viewer/editor is automatically launched in response.

Nothing in <u>Schwerin</u> describes or suggests a selection of an auxiliary storage device

from among a plurality of kinds of auxiliary storage devices or accessing the launch selection

information and launching the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device,

indicated as selected by the accessed launch selection information, by issuing the execution

command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and similarly Claims 23 and 27,

and claims depending respectfully therefrom, patentably distinguish over <u>Wiklof</u> and

<u>Schwerin</u> considered individually or in any combination.

Moreover, the further cited <u>Ozawa</u>, <u>Nomura</u> and <u>Volkov</u> references do not cure the

deficiencies of <u>Wiklof</u> and <u>Schwerin</u> with regard to the claimed invention.
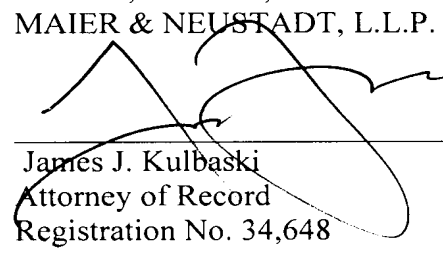
Consequently, for the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be

outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 4-11, and

15-19, 21, 23 and 27 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this

application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact

Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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